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Letter To The Editor

January 20, 1977
Appomattox, Va. 24522

Dear Editor:

For more than two years I have seen this bird that Courtney Mann shot. There was only one pair of them. These big birds lived in trees where I go hunting in the afternoon. These graceful birds were bigger than a crow and had white on the ends of their wings. I had never in my life seen anything like it. I tried to look them up in books but could not find anything that looked like them. I then thought they could be extinct.

I have seen these birds hunting and could have shot them myself. Once I thought they were turkeys and aimed at them but saw that they were the same one pair of birds. I go hunting for game that I know are not going to be extinct like rabbits and squirrels. I can not see how anybody can shoot a beautiful bird like this and then asked a question "What kind of bird is this?" He should have gotten books like I did and tried to look it up.

This is why Virginia has game laws: To protect endangered species. Because you saw a strange bird in your yard you shot it! People who don't care much about ou.. endangering wildlife would shoot a harmless bird.

I would hang my head in shame in shooting it instead of remembering a beautiful bird came to visit you looking for food during this snow - icy weather. He did not come to harm anybody just for some food as any bird would.

Thank You,
Tommy Wingfield

Letter To The *To Forum*

January 20, 1977

Dear Patrons:

During the past two weeks, weather conditions have been very severe. It was necessary to close schools for an extended period of time because of icy roads, extremely low temperatures and a shortage of electrical power.

Schools reopened on Wednesday, January 19. There were areas in the county where it was unsafe for buses to travel. We regret this condition. Be assured that bus service will be resumed as soon as safe conditions exist.

It is always the practice of the School Board and school employees to provide for the safety and well-being of students. Every effort has been and will continue to be made to protect our students.

Many persons have helped us during these extreme weather conditions. Parents have been very cooperative and helpful in reporting road conditions, in transporting students to locations where buses can travel and in giving words of understanding and support. Radio station WTTX and **The Times-Virginian** have helped us keep you informed. We are very appreciative of the many ways in which parents and the news media have helped us. We ask for your continued cooperation and suggestions as we work together in the interest of our youth.

Sincerely yours,
Lloyd G. Walton
Division Superintendent

H. A. Paulette
Director of Transportation

LETTER TO FORUM

TO: The Citizens of Appomattox County
FROM: The Girl Scout Representatives of Appomattox County

We are beginning the second half of our 1976-77 year and would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have given of their time and effort to make girl scouting as much a success as it is. However, there is still a tremendous need for more adult participation. Without this, many girls will miss the opportunities girl scouting provides.

The categories where we need adult participation are **first and most important of all leaders and assistant leaders.** We also need people who are willing to donate their time and talents by helping to serve on various committees within the troop or in the service unit.

The greatest reward that comes from working with girl scouts is the personal satisfaction of seeing the accomplishments that the girls could not have achieved without your help.

We are now in the process of recruiting leaders and helpers for the 1977-78 year. In order to get a better understanding or more details on what girl scouting is and what you can do to help, NOW is the time to notify your girl scout representatives. Call 352-8398, 352-8704 or 352-5539.

Sincerely yours,
Team Members of
Appomattox Service
Unit, Virginia Skyline
Girl Scout Council

Mystery Bird Identified . . .

In the January 20th edition of the **TIMES-VIRGINIAN**, we printed a picture of Courtney Mann of Route 1 holding an unusual bird he found, feeding with his chickens, and shot. The bird had a black body and black and white wings. Mr. Mann wanted the bird identified if possible.

On Thursday, January 20th, we received a telephone call at the **TIMES-VIRGINIAN** office from a man who would not give his name but said he wanted to identify the "mystery bird". The anonymous caller identified the bird as a Pileated Wood-Pecker (not positive of spelling) and stated that "there were few left in this part of the country and that the bird should not have been killed."

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The Pastor Speaks

"Let love be genuine." What a great statement. It comes from the heart of one who struggled with his relationship to God and against the early church. His tactic had been to let hate and revenge change what was against his will. That continued until he encountered the love of God in Christ and found himself changed.

If anything needs to be genuine, it is love. We do not make it easier either by narrowing the meaning of love to physical function. How sad that we find ourselves inhibited from expressing love to others, whether in word or deed, for fear it will not be accepted and understood maturely or in Christian faith.

Jesus gave us two commandments which he said come first: love to God and love to neighbor (Mk. 12:28-31). They are to govern all our relations. If that love is genuine, then all else about our lives will be genuine, real.

How do you know what is genuine love? Only by the example and teaching of Jesus. "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Sacrificially, Jesus laid down his life for us.

Love is genuine if it desires change not by destroying but by building up, encouraging. Jesus teaches us how to be like that - pray for those who persecute you, rise and minister to your enemy, forgiving those who wrong you. Genuine love is found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

"Let love be genuine" and we will experience a profound depth in all relations and our greatest need will be met.

P. Edward Leonard, Jr.,
Minister, Memorial
United Methodist Church

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE EXORCIST

Lesson for January 30, 1977

Background Scripture:
Mark 1:21-39; Luke 4:31-44
Devotional Reading:
Psalms 103:1-5

Rev. Althouse

Several years ago there was a frightening motion picture called "Rosemary's Baby," then later "The Exorcist," and as I write this column there is "The Omen." Each of these motion pictures deals with the question of the reality of the demonic. When "The Exorcist" burst upon the scene in all of its commercialized success, many people were surprised to find that the story was not pure fiction, but based upon an actual case. They were even more amazed to find that the Roman Catholic Church had a little-known rite of exorcism which, under stringent supervision, is used when, in the judgement of clerical authorities, it is necessary.

An unclean spirit

Whatever else we might say about "The Exorcist," novel or movie, it was a forceful depiction of the struggle between the power of God and the power of evil in the life of one tormented individual. The writer, Peter Beatty, argued strongly for the reality of the demonic. The close of the story left many in doubt as to the resolution of that struggle.

"The Omen," obviously an attempt to capitalize on contemporary society's continuing preoccupation with the demonic, goes even further. It suggests that the power of evil is pervasive, virtually indestructible. It is, perhaps, the gloomy conclusion of a society that has grown cynical and frightened by a technology that spawns a Dachau, a Hiroshima, and the threat of an ecological disaster of cosmic proportions.

They obeyed him

The writers of the Gospels believed in the reality of the demonic, as did most people in Jesus' day. Thus when a demented man bursts into the synagogue at Capernaum and confronts Jesus, he is described as "a man with an unclean spirit," meaning that he was possessed by something evil and destructive. Today such a man would be judged mentally ill and sent to a hospital or clinic for therapy.

The man's challenge to Jesus is not a mere coincidence. This is a significant challenge to the power of the Nazarene. He has healed many sick people, but what can he do with someone who is possessed by an evil spirit (or even a psychosis)? It was a monumental challenge to Jesus for mental illness is much more resistive to therapy than that which we call physiological illness. Even today the rate of cure is anything but impressive.

Jesus does not meet this challenge with an elaborate ritual, but says simply and authoritatively: "Be silent, and come out of him!" And that's what happened: the powerful power of the demonic could not prevail against the power of God in Jesus. "What is this?" the people want to know. "With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him!"

Yes, I believe in the demonic and its amazingly destructive power. But more than that, I believe also in the even greater, invincible power of God in Christ!

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Community Press Service.)

So says the VA . . . MUTT & JEFF by Al Smith

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We thought you should know...

that in the area of medical malpractice suits, in one state, ten times as many million-dollar awards have been made since 1970 than in all the years before. The growing volume of such suits is adding more than $3 billion to the nation's annual cost of health care, according to HEW.

What's the point? The point is, this is just one of the many circumstances helping to push the cost of insurance beyond the reach of many.

You can help by talking to your neighbors and friends, writing your representatives in government and contacting your insurance commissioner. Or, by talking to us.

Then maybe you won't just blame your insurance company and your agent.

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Then And Now

By: Frances H. Paulette

Mrs. J. Mott Harvey, shown at the age of 69, holding her granddaughter, Janet, on the porch of their farm home near Evergreen. "Mattie Mott", as she is affectionately known to her many friends, will be 87 in September.

"Mattie Mott" Reflects

January . . . the holiday season is over! The decorations neatly stored away, but the too-rich food remains I'm afraid, for many of us, in unsightly bulges in all of the wrong places!

Stretching ahead, the cruelly cold days seem like necessary appointments that must be kept. After the energy accompanying the anticipation of Christmas and the New Year, the mid-winter lull leaves us drained and somehow temporarily without aim.

With the town and countryside frosted with snow and glazed with ice the schools were forced to close for a time and in some instances businesses slowed to almost a standstill.

Let's go back to the days of THEN and we'll take a look at how the people fared until the bitterly cold days were warmed by the coming of spring.

NOTE: Mrs. J. Mott Harvey, of Evergreen, known to her many friends as "Mattie Mott" will be 87 years young come September 22nd. Born Mattie Clark, a daughter of James and Mildred Clark of the Evergreen Community, she was married in 1912 to J. Mott Harvey, also of the Evergreen Community. Mr. and Mrs. Harvey were happily married for 61 years. They lived on a farm just outside the village of Evergreen until seven years prior to Mr. Harvey's death on November 27, 1973 at the age of 85.

Though she lives alone in her home in the village, Mrs. Harvey has little time for being lonely. Once her housework is finished, she busies herself with sewing, crocheting and visiting with her innumerable friends.

A teacher of the beginners class in Sunday School at Evergreen Baptist Church for 53 years, "Mattie Mott" is never absent unless she is sick. Her Christian faith, and happy unselfish approach to life make her an inspiration to all who know her.

Mrs. Harvey has three daughters, Mrs. Fayetta Harvey Richardson, Mrs. Thalia Harvey Mayberry, and Mrs. Josie Harvey Dudley, all of Lynchburg; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

"Mattie Mott", active, interested in the happenings of NOW has beautiful, vivid memories of the days of THEN. Thank you for remembering with us, and for being a very special person.

• • •

Mattie Clark, snugly curled in her warm bed, didn't want to hear the voice calling at the foot of the stairs. Burrowed deep in the feather mattress and piled high with handmade quilts, she was insulated against the extreme cold of the unheated upstairs bedroom. She was dreaming of warm, spring days, when she could run barefoot in the green grass of the pasture and wade in the nearby branch.

Once more her father's voice invaded her dream, rousing her from sleep, "Get up, and get ready for breakfast!" Then she remembered, the holiday was over, today was a school day and before she left for school there were chores to be shared with her brother and sisters. It was already a little after 5 a.m. and Mr. Jim Clark, Mattie's father, liked his family at the breakfast table on time.

Hopping out of bed with the speed of lightening, (to dawdle would have meant nearly freezing to death!) she began to dress. Mattie quickly pulled on her long, black, yarn petticoat, topped it with still another petticoat made of cotton outing, then pulled on her "everday" dress. As soon after breakfast as the chores were finished, she would change into a better dress for school.

Grabbing her high-top shoes with buttons, she bounded down the stairs to the inviting warmth of the big fireplace. Mattie, her brother and sisters were granted the privilege of putting on their shoes before the open fire. Now fully dressed, Mattie ran shivering across the open platform from the downstairs bedroom to the combination kitchen and dining room which was warmed by the big black kitchen stove and a fireplace. The appetizing aroma of breakfast whetted her young appetite. The fried ham, produced on the farm and cured by her father, gravy, home-made biscuits with freshly churned butter and sorghum molasses were a welcome beginning to any day. On Sunday mornings there was the added treat of eggs for breakfast.

With each head reverently bowed, Mattie's father would "say grace". No meal was ever eaten in this family without first pausing to give thanks to God for His goodness.

Breakfast behind them, Mattie and her brother and sisters had little time to waste - fetching and toting. The cows had to be milked, water carried by buckets from the spring at the foot of the hill (enough to last all day), and the never-ending task of bringing in wood for the kitchen stove and the fireplaces.

After the chores were over, Mattie washed her face and hands. She poured cold water from the bucket on the table, adding a little hot from the teakettle on the stove until the water in the tin washpan was just right, then combed her hair. Changing to her "better" dress, she put on her long, heavy, woolen cloak, wrapped her yarn scarf around her head, pulled on her mittens, grabbed her lunch basket and started for school. It was necessary to leave promptly at 8 a.m. in order to reach Martin Field School in time for the beginning of classes at 9. The walk each morning of approximately three miles to school and back home again in the afternoon kept Mattie and her brother and sisters, without a doubt, physically fit! And that was THEN!

Insurance Corner

ANN M. REYNOLDS
Scott Insurance

HOW MUCH FOR CAR DAMAGE ?

Dollars aren't the only things which devalue with age. Depreciation holds true with your car also. What does this mean in terms of collecting payment for damage, theft, or a complete wipeout? People sometimes think that they'll be able to recover the full amount that they paid for the car if it's totally demolished. This isn't always true. Like anything else, the value of your car decreases every year, so insurance companies usually limit their payment to the 'actual cash value' of the car.

In other words, you'll receive an amount necessary to replace your car with the same year's model in similar condition. If your car is only partially damaged, your insurance company will pay no more to repair your car than the car is currently worth. Also, repair costs for any damage that existed before your accident should not be provided by your insurance Company. This falls under the heading of 'pre-existing damage.'

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Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:30

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SCOTT INSURANCE

STONEWALL

And they went into Capernaum and straighway on the Sabbath day He entered into the synogogue and taught. Mark 1:21

In spite of the bad cold weather we had a fine number of 89 present at Hebron Sunday. The Men's Day was held with some fine talks given by our own members. Hats off to them.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Alvin Jr. spent the week-end with her father at Orange, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Worley were week-end visitors of Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Harris, Will and Jack were Sunday guests of Mrs. Nina and Elsie Caldwell.

Ray Mitchell killed a deer on first day of hunting season, and last week he got his first squirrel.

While this cold spell is on, let's all pray that spring will come soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Barrell spent the week-end with her father, Mr. J. O. Davidson.

Mrs. Helen Stratton spent the week-end with her brother, Hubert Scruggs.

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May I invite you to reminiscense with me again next week - - - with "Mattie Mott's" help of course! There's really nothing much else to do these cold winter days, is there?

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